The time at which a young man becomes a full fledged fisherman depends on his own ability and progress. Age is not a criterion of skill after a young man has had experience. Perhaps when he is 24, a young man can handle every phase of the work, including catching the swordfish. It is common for a young and an old man to work together, the one as master, the other as novice. There is no stated apprenticeship period. In bad weather, or in rough seas, only the unusually apt young fisherman is allowed to bring in a large fish by himself because of the danger of capsizing.

2

Types of Boats

All boats are now motor driven. There are 42 in the village, 41 of which are small skiffs. Three types of boats are distinguished: (1) the hatsudōki. This is little more than a good sized motorboat with a cabin. It carries about 8 men. There is one in the village. The small scale individualized character of fishing here is indicated by the smallness of the remaining craft. (2) the kuribune (literally, "hollowed out boat," from the verb kuru, to carve or to hollow out). Properly speaking, it is a boat carved out of a log, usually of the Japanese redwood (sugi) imported from Japan, but the term is extended to mean any small boat. This type has largely disappeared, and only one remains in the village. The hollowed out boat seems, in this area at least, to have become a lost art. It has been displaced by (3) the hagibune (jointed, pieced together boat). This is also made from the Japanese redwood and is constructed, often by the fishermen themselves, out of planks about 2 1/2 inches thick. There were 40 of these hagibune in January 1952. The number is never constant due to new building, losses at sea, or on shore from typhoon destruction.

These small boats do not require much maintenance. At typhoon times, they are lifted from the shore up over the breakwater and lashed down on the side of the road. This may not avoid destruction. If the breaking waves are high and strong, they crush the breakwater, hurling its stones against the boats. Every two months, the boats are thoroughly treated by rubbing with shark oil. Cracks and small holes are repaired with small wooden plugs, called fundu in Okinawan. These are shaped like a stylized butterfly. They are inserted in the bottom of the sides of the boats across the running planks, that is, against the grain.

3

Common Fish and How They Are Caught

In this area, many different kinds of fish are caught, but the following discussion is limited to the most plentiful and economically

178 In Kanegusuku, for example, mat weaving is still of some importance
286 as a home industry. Where formerly nearly all of the houses were engaged in
433 production of mats, today less than half are so engaged, and the acreage planted in sedge is but ten percent of the prewar level. The war caused the loss of many machines; increasing emphasis on food production has brought a conversion of sedge fields into paddies; access to the better markets in Japan is now more difficult than before the war; it is felt to be too time-consuming and the young women today do not like this work.

Formerly there were a number of men in Kanegusuku who were able to construct the looms used in mat weaving. Today, however, no one constructs his own looms; instead, they are purchased from a manufacturer in Itoman.
[463] This particular example is symptomatic of the general decline of do-it-yourself and the increasing reliance placed on specialists.

178 There are some encouraging signs of revival or new life in the manu-
• [322] facture of Okinawan art objects. Okinawan lacquer ware, which is acknowledged by some to be the world's finest, is being sold in large quantity to
[323] members of the occupation. The owner of a large pottery works in Naha told the author that pottery from tombs is being collected to serve as models in restoring an older style and superior type of pottery. An Okinawan textile
[286] technique known as <u>biingata</u> (Okinawan; in Japanese, 'Benigata') was virtually lost during the war, but this art is still being carried on by one Shuri family, and recent publicity and aroused interest seems likely to insure survival.

178 <u>Power and Machinery</u> Agricultural machinery has come into use quite
407 recently on Okinawa. Pitts states that the labor-saving rice thresher first came into widespread use in the thirties. Older methods of flailing or rubbing the rice over a mat, canvas, or stone surface were also observed as being in common use. In numerous instances it was brought out that wartime losses had necessitated a return to an earlier and cruder means of threshing.

The old-fashioned, hand-operated rice polisher has gone out of use in Kanegusuku, and all rice is now polished in the village rice mill which operates on a gasoline engine.

In many communities the gasoline-operated sugar mill has replaced the
[257] horse-powered mill. More important, however, is the fact that the small community mill remains popular, and the farmer is resistant toward using the large sugar factories (see chapter on Rural Economy).

178
377 Electricity, common only to the towns and cities before the war, is
[373] now found in many villages, and those who are without it are looking forward to its installation. The kerosene lamps now in use in most rural homes cast a dim light and constitute a serious fire hazard in homes of thatch and wood.

178 The bulldozer has come into use as a means of opening new land and
406 constructing rice fields. Farmers in Kanegusuku and Nanahan made use of this method during the period of the authors' study of these two villages. Formerly this sort of work required the labor of a number of men over a considerable